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(54) Apparatus for preventing development of atrial fibrillation

(57) An implanted pacemaker senses intrinsic atrial events and generates corresponding pacing pulses. The atrial events are also monitored for a precursor of an atrial fibrillation episode. If such a precursor is detected, the pacemaker generates therapy designed to prevent the atrial fibrillation episode. For example, the atrium and/or the ventricle may be overdriven at a pacing rate above the intrinsic rate.

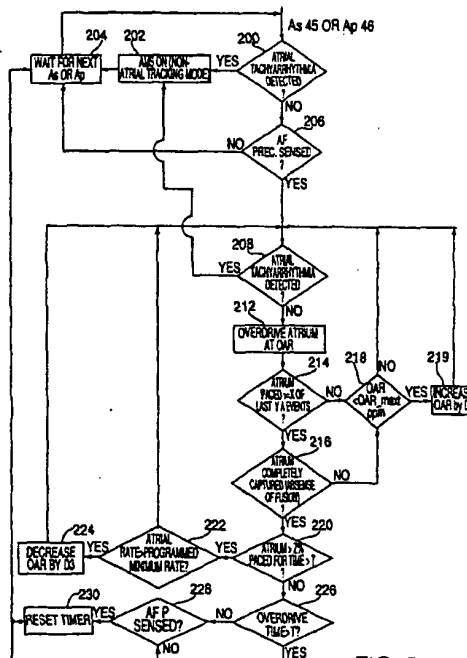


FIG. 6



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Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 98 30 6453
shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent
proceedings, as the European search report

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A	---	9,10,36 -/--	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
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INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely : 1-20, 33-42</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched : 21-32</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search: Article 52 (4) EPC - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy</p>			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13 December 1999	Examiner Ferrigno, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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